

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-21. (Canceled).

22. (Currently Amended) The ~~expression vector according to claim 24~~method of ~~claim 29 or 38~~, wherein ~~the~~said nucleotide sequences ~~code~~sequence coding for a ~~NS3/NS4~~ polyprotein ~~of a HCV~~ and ~~a~~said nucleotide sequence coding for a ~~NS5b~~ polypeptide ~~of a~~ ~~HCV~~ ~~originating~~originate from viruses of different genotypes.

23. (Currently Amended) The ~~expression vector according to claim 24~~method of ~~claim 29 or 38~~, wherein ~~the~~said nucleotide sequences ~~code~~sequence coding for a ~~NS3/NS4~~ polyprotein ~~of a HCV~~ and ~~a~~said nucleotide sequence coding for a ~~NS5b~~ polypeptide ~~of a~~ ~~HCV~~ ~~originating~~originate from a virus of the same genotype.

24. (Currently Amended) The ~~expression vector according to claim 24~~method of ~~claim 29 or 38~~, wherein ~~the~~said expression ~~vector~~is an adenovirus~~vectors(s)~~vectors(s) are ~~adenoviruses~~.

25. (Currently Amended) The ~~expression vector according to~~method of claim 24, wherein the genome of the adenovirus is modified so as to replace the E1 region by the expression cassette CMV-NS3-NS4 and to replace the E3 region by the expression cassette SV40-NS5b.

26. (Currently Amended) The ~~expression vector according to~~method of ~~claim 24~~method of ~~claim 29 or 38~~, wherein ~~the~~said expression ~~vector~~is a poxvirus~~vectors~~vectors are ~~poxviruses~~.

27. (Currently Amended) The ~~expression vector according to~~method of claim 26, wherein the genome of the poxvirus is modified so as to insert the expression cassette ph5r-NS3-NS4 and to insert the expression cassette p7.5- NS5b.

28. (Canceled).

29. (Currently Amended) A method for the inhibition or control of an infection caused by hepatitis C virus (HCV) in an animal, wherein said method comprises administering to an animal in need thereof an effective amount of at least one of the following:

(a) (i) an expression vector comprising HCV coding sequences, wherein said HCV coding sequences consist of a nucleotide sequence coding for an NS3/NS4 polyprotein of a HCV, and (ii) an expression vector comprising HCV coding sequences, wherein said HCV coding sequences consist of a nucleotide sequence coding for an NS5b polypeptide of a HCV; and

(b) an expression vector comprising HCV coding sequences, wherein said HCV coding sequences consist of (i) a nucleotide sequence coding for an NS3/NS4 polyprotein of a HCV and (ii) a nucleotide sequence coding for an NS5b polypeptide of a HCV; wherein: said method does not comprise administering a nucleotide sequence coding for an NS5a polypeptide of a HCV

(a) the expression vector according to claim 21;
(b) an expression vector for expression of a nucleotide sequence coding for the polyprotein NS3/NS4 of the hepatitis C virus and a vector for expression of a nucleotide sequence coding for the polypeptide NS5b of the hepatitis C virus; or
(c) an expression vector for expression of nucleotide sequences coding for the polyprotein NS3/NS4 of the hepatitis C virus and the polypeptide NS5b of the hepatitis C virus placed under the control of elements necessary to an expression constitutive of and/or inducible from said polyprotein NS3/NS4 of the hepatitis C virus and said polypeptide NS5b of the hepatitis C virus.

30-35. (Canceled).

36. (Currently Amended) The expression vector according to claim 23method of claim 29 or 38, wherein said nucleotide sequence coding for a NS3/NS4 polyprotein of a

HCV and said nucleotide sequence coding for a NS5b polypeptide of a HCV
~~originate nucleotide sequences code for a polyprotein and a polypeptide originating from a~~
~~virus HCV of genotype 1b.~~

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein said animal is a human.

38. (Currently Amended) A method of inducing an immune response in an animal, ~~infected by the hepatitis C virus~~ wherein said method comprises administering to ~~an~~said animal ~~in need thereof~~an effective amount of at least one of the following:

(a) (i) an expression vector comprising HCV coding sequences, wherein said HCV
coding sequences consist of a nucleotide sequence coding for an NS3/NS4 polyprotein of a
HCV, and (ii) an expression vector comprising HCV coding sequences, wherein said HCV
coding sequences consist of a nucleotide sequence coding for an NS5b polypeptide of a
HCV; and

(b) an expression vector comprising HCV coding sequences, wherein said HCV
coding sequences consist of (i) a nucleotide sequence coding for an NS3/NS4 polyprotein of
a HCV and (ii) a nucleotide sequence coding for an NS5b polypeptide of a HCV; wherein:
said method does not comprise administering a nucleotide sequence coding for an
NS5a polypeptide of a HCV

(a) the expression vector according to claim 21;
(b) an expression vector for expression of a nucleotide sequence coding for the
polyprotein NS3/NS4 of the hepatitis C virus and an expression vector for expression of a
nucleotide sequence coding for the polypeptide NS5b of the hepatitis C virus; or
(c) an expression vector for expression of nucleotide sequences coding for the
polyprotein NS3/NS4 of the hepatitis C virus and the polypeptide NS5b of the hepatitis C
virus placed under the control of elements necessary to an expression constitutive of and/or
inducible from said polyprotein NS3/NS4 of the hepatitis C virus and said polypeptide NS5b
of the hepatitis C virus.

39. (Currently Amended) The method ~~according to~~of claim 38, wherein said immune response is a cell immune response.

40. (Currently Amended) The method ~~according to~~of claim 38, wherein said animal is a human.

41. (New) The method of claim 29 or claim 38, wherein said HCV coding sequences are operatively linked to one or more regulatory elements sufficient for the expression of said NS3/NS4 polyprotein and said NS5b polypeptide.